

in society today. Let's look at the facts.

Premiums are going up. They are going up \$7 so that we can increase spending per beneficiary by \$1,900.

The tax cuts that Democrats say we're giving to the rich to fund these reforms were passed last spring. They have nothing to do with preserving Medicare.

If you don't want to switch plans or service you do not have to. The Republican plan does not require you to change anything unless you want to.

Finally, for Democrats to decry that some kind of a backroom deal was made by Republicans to satisfy certain interest groups is absolutely absurd. What's happening is people are finally starting to really look at our plan and they're starting to realize that it's a good plan and that scares the heck out of Democrats.

A DAY OF INFAMY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE. Days of infamy. October 12, we lock up seniors in America. October 19, today, Republicans have 900 pages to trash Medicare. Premiums for all seniors will rise at least \$87 by 2002; hospitals will close; Medicare benefits for beneficiaries will go up \$1,700; and, yes, you will get your \$270 billion for a tax cut.

What a day of infamy. How sad. And when we want to talk about scriptures, let me tell you about a scripture. The story goes in the New Testament that the Lord asked a question, and the lawyer responded as he asked the question, "Lord, when did I deny you?" And he did not realize that he denied him when he ignored seniors in America, the senior from Houston, TX, that says "I do not believe the drastic cuts in Medicaid and Medicare should take place for the tax breaks for the privileged. I can't hardly write, my finger is so sore, and my husband has 2 ulcers on his leg."

These are the letters, time and time again, that I have gotten from my seniors who say stop trashing Medicare and let us make something happen for all Americans.

ONLY IN WASHINGTON IS AN INCREASE A CUT

(Mr. BILBRAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, it is really sad that we have try to reinforce the public's perception of lack of trust in Washington with the MediScare tactics. Only in Washington could a 42- to 45-percent increase be called a cut.

Now, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle may say that may be working with words and may be working with numbers. Per person we are talking about going from \$4,800 to \$6,700, a \$1,900 increase.

Now, any senior knows if their insurance company told them "We are going to increase your rates by \$1,900, and that is a cut, a slashing of your rates," the senior would say, "You are crazy."

If you want to know a special interest group that is driving this Member, my seniors from AARP, 20 members have been advising me on this item. Their advice is why do we allow more than the rate of inflation? We are proposing twice the rate of inflation, Mr. Speaker. Twice the rate of inflation is what our projections are.

AN OUTRAGEOUS PIECE OF LEGISLATION

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, this is the most outrageous thing I have seen in my 33 years here in the House. Yes, I am talking to you. Nobody has ever seen the bill that we will be voting on in 3 hours. Nobody has ever seen the bill we will be voting on in 3 hours.

The bill we will be voting on is not the bill that came from the Committee on Ways and Means, not the bill that came out of the Committee on Commerce. It is some bill adopted somewhere in this Congress by a group of people whose faces and names are unknown. Nobody knows what is in that bill.

I know why it is being adopted. It is being adopted for one simple reason: GOP, get old people, and use the money you get from them to pay for a tax cut for your wealthy contributors.

This is an outrage.

MEDAGOGUERY

(Mr. DREIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I have enjoyed the Biblical quotations throughout the morning, but there have also been a number of quotations from the media. My friend from Texas focused on an article that appeared in today's paper, and, frankly, while we do not on this side regularly champion the Washington Post, I believe that the Washington Post described so much of what we have heard over the past few minutes on the other side of the aisle, because they have observed the debate over the past several months. They said the rhetoric which has come from the Democrats is nothing but medogoguery. That is the Washington Post editorialization of what we have been hearing.

We as Republicans have stepped up to the plate. Another article that appeared, Adam Clymer in yesterday's New York Times acknowledged that in the past the Democrats have tried to avoid tough votes.

We as Republicans have acknowledged that when Robert Reich, Bob

Rubin, Donna Shalala, and the other members of the board of trustees from this administration signed that report saying that within 7 years the system will be bankrupt, we had to do something. We Republicans are stepping up to the plate and doing it. Let us address this in a bipartisan way.

MEDICARE CUTS WILL HURT SENIORS

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Congress will vote today on the Republican plan to cut the \$270 billion in Medicare to pay for that \$245 billion, and my colleague from California, they are stepping up to the plate, but they are being greedy. Even though the Medicare trustees, as the gentleman said, said we need to deal with Medicare, they only said we needed to deal with it for \$89 billion and not \$270 billion.

Speaker GINGRICH's Medicare plan takes three times as much to pay for that tax cut of \$245 billion. The simple truth is that they do not need the \$270 billion from Medicare to make the program healthy. They are cutting Medicare to pay for the tax breaks.

Do not be fooled. Seniors will be hurt by Speaker GINGRICH's plan. Number one, premiums will double, forcing many seniors to choose between their choice of health care and other living essentials. The choice of doctors will be limited.

Earlier this year my Republican colleagues talked about the Washington Post editorial. Before they vote today, I hope they would read today's editorial, where it talks about what they say, "Who Pays if Medicare Is Cut?"

I include that editorial for the RECORD.

[From the Washington Post, Oct. 19, 1995]

WHO PAYS IF MEDICARE IS CUT?

The great question—you could say gamble—with regard to the Republican plan to reform Medicare is whether it will succeed in fostering competition that will drive down the cost of care, or will simply shift some large part of the cost from the government back to recipients, thereby creating a much more limited program—a half-Medicare. No one knows the answer. What the House and Senate are being asked to do in considering their respective versions of the plan in the next two weeks is to choose between risks. One is the risk of not acting to curb the enormous projected cost of the program, which threatens over time to break the bank—and which the Republicans are right to have taken seriously and sought to address. The other is the risk of shifting too much cost to lower-income elderly and disabled people who can't bear it and who may therefore be left without the care that they both need and currently have.

The Republicans have argued that the cuts they propose would fall mainly on hospitals, doctors and other providers, and only to a lesser degree on Medicare recipients themselves. But it isn't certain that this is how it

would work out. The government itself would pay the providers less. But the plan then also makes it possible for the providers to recover if they want by charging the recipients more. The insurers and providers with whom the recipients would deal would not be required to absorb the cuts. Rather, to the extent that competitive pressures permitted, they would be free in various ways to pass them on; the recipients then would have to absorb them.

Our own sense is that, as the bills are written, this risk is too great. That's particularly the case because the Republicans would decimate Medicaid, the backstop program for the needy elderly and disabled. The house the Republicans are building has plenty of roof over cost but not enough floor under care. Much has been made in recent days of the deals that House Speaker Newt Gingrich is said to have struck with the American Medical Association and other provider groups to ensure their support for the plan. The assorted deals are small potatoes compared with this structural defect in the plan. It has to be fixed to make the plan worth passing.

The plan has, while we're at it, one other provision that would cost billions of dollars while serving no good purpose and ought to be killed outright. We have in mind the medical savings accounts the proposal would permit. Instead of paying a recipient's bills or giving the recipient a fixed amount to help buy an insurance policy or enroll in a managed care plan, the government would put that amount in a savings account in the person's name, partly to buy a high-deductible, so-called catastrophic insurance policy, the rest to be used for other purposes. After a certain amount had accumulated, if the recipient didn't need or want to use the money for health care he could use it to take a vacation, buy a boat—you name it.

Healthy and better-off people who could afford the risk would be drawn to this. The government would be putting more in their accounts per year than they currently take from Medicare, thus adding to costs and leaving less to care for the sick and less well-off. It's a skimming operation, and it ought to be dropped without a second thought.

SOLVE MEDICARE PROBLEMS IN A BIPARTISAN WAY

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the Medicare trustees have told us that Medicare is going bankrupt. Let me quote from their own words: "We strongly recommend that the crisis presented by the financial condition of the Medicare trust funds be urgently addressed on a comprehensive basis."

This is a quote from the Medicare trustees. Six of them, four of them appointed by President Clinton, three of them Cabinet-level positions. We believe that their recommendation should be followed, and we are doing that.

We really need to address the Medicare crisis. Please join us in addressing that crisis. Please stop medagogy. Please join in the discussion which is now just beginning. The passage of this bill today is just one of a number of steps in which this bill can be modified so that it becomes ever a better and

better bill. Please join us in solving this problem for senior citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is morally reprehensible to frighten senior citizens for political agendas.

VOTE "NO" ON MEDICARE BILL

(Mr. BENTSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BENTSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the Medicare Pilfering Act of 1995 that the Republicans are bringing to the floor today.

The Republicans think they can fool the American people by dressing this bill up in Orwellian language and calling it the Medicare Preservation Act of 1995.

But the American people have caught on that they really are pilfering Medicare to pay for a tax cut for the rich.

Under the Republican plan, you reduce Medicare spending by \$270 billion and you only extend the life of the Medicare hospitalization trust fund to the year 2006. Under the Democratic alternative, you reduce Medicare spending by \$90 billion and you also extend the trust fund to the year 2006. Even the Republican staff of the Ways and Means Committee admit that the two bills achieve the very same goal.

So what is going on here? If cutting \$90 billion and cutting \$270 billion achieve the same goal, why do the Republicans insist on cutting Medicare by \$270 billion and what happens to the \$180 billion difference?

The answer is that it is being used to pay for those \$245 billion in tax cuts that we do not need and cannot afford. No matter how the Republicans disguise it, there is no escaping the fact that they are cutting Medicare to pay for tax cuts.

That is irresponsible. That is wrong. That is unfair to America's senior citizens. Vote "no" on the Medicare Pilfering Act of 1995.

JUST THE FACTS ON MEDICARE

(Mrs. VUCANOVICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Joe Friday used to say "Just the facts, ma'am." Well, here are just the facts on Medicare.

Fact: According to Clinton trustees, Medicare is going bankrupt in 7 years and Congress should do something this year to avert this disaster.

Fact: The Medicare Preservation Act will save the Medicare system, while giving choice to seniors that they have asked for time and time again.

Fact: No senior will be forced into an HMO. HMO's are simply an option for seniors, as is traditional Medicare, medical savings accounts, and provider sponsored networks.

Fact: The Medicare Preservation Act increases individual benefits for sen-

iors from \$4,800 per year today to \$6,700 per year in 2002.

Fact: By law, Medicare savings can be used only to save Medicare.

Fact: The Medicare debate has become a game of who are you going to believe: Those across the aisle who knew about the impending bankruptcy for years and did nothing? Or those who have taken the challenge and made the promise to save Medicare from an untimely death. These are just the facts.

□ 0930

DO NOT TRADE HEALTH CARE FOR TAX CUTS

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, today is the day that the Republicans trade the health care of our seniors for tax cuts for the wealthy. Today is the day that the Republicans take on the best health care system in the world, the least expensive health care system in the world, in terms of overhead, and the most comprehensive health care system in the world for senior citizens, and today they trade that in for tax cuts to the wealthy.

Mr. Speaker, they do so by taking away benefits that seniors have. They do so by making sure that seniors will not be able to pay and to purchase the same health care levels and benefits that they have today 5 years from today. They will not be able to arrange for the same level of health care. And so we leave our seniors stranded so that we can provide tax cuts and capital gains cuts to the wealthiest individuals in this country.

One of my seniors from Pittsburg, CA wrote and said, "Congress must understand we seniors built this country and we deserve better. You should not do this to us."

MANAGED CARE WORKS IN MEDICARE

(Mr. BLUTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BLUTE. Mr. Speaker, perhaps we will have to wait a year or two until our friends on the other side of the aisle come over to our way of thinking. Similarly, we are now hearing that President Clinton is saying that the 1993 tax increase was wrong and not the right thing to do and perhaps too large. Yet we heard from Members on the other side how important that was, and now President Clinton has come over to our way of thinking.

I think our colleagues on the other side will come over to our way of thinking on Medicare because we need to save this important program. Under the Republican plan Medicare will grow by \$86 billion over the next 7